



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to First Degree Child Sexual Abuse For Repeatedly Sexually Abusing his Young Teenage Godson

WASHINGTON - Nelson E. Canales, 48, of Washington, D.C. pled guilty to First Degree Child Sexual Abuse on September 1, 2010, before the Honorable Herbert B. Dixon Jr. in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

According to evidence introduced at the plea hearing, between January 1, 2006 and July 30, 2009, Canales repeatedly lured the victim K.I., to Canales' apartment in the 3000 block of Mount Pleasant Street N.W. and sexually assaulted K.I. while inside the apartment. K.I. first disclosed the abuse to a youth counselor in November 2009.

Canales was arrested for this offense on June 24, 2010 and has remained incarcerated pending final disposition of the case. Canales will be sentenced on November 12, 2010. At sentencing, Canales faces a possible maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, but is likely to receive a sentence of 90 to 180 months imprisonment under the Superior Court Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines. Upon his release from prison following the completion of his sentence, Canales will be required to register under the Sex Offender Registration Act for 10 years.

In announcing today's plea, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department Youth Investigations Branch, and particularly praised the work of Detective Frank Santiago. The U.S. Attorney also commended the work of Victim Advocate Veronica Vaughan, Paralegal Specialist Donahue Griffith, Legal Assistant Tanisha Nelson, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Ditzler, who prosecuted the case.

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